BENGALURU, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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'Why is BBMP not removing photos, hoardings of politicians from public places or registering criminal complaints?'

RED-FACED

Citizens approach Karnataka Lokayukta against BBMP inaction

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In November 2020, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief commissioner issued a circular to the joint commissioners and chief engineers of respective zones to register criminal complaints against those responsible for disfigurement of public places.

If a recent complaint lodged with Karnataka Lokayukta is anything to go by, it seems the BBMP authorities have forgotten about the circular issued by the then chief commissioner N Manjunath Prasad.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – Putting up netas' pics can be a criminal act – on November 23, 2020, narrating how the BBMP chief commissioner's circular finally provided some respite from seeing the faces of our beloved politicians wherever we look.

The reluctance and negligence of BBMP authorities in either removing the photos of elected representatives from public places or registering criminal complaints as directed by the chief commissioner of that time (November 2020) made JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association to knock on the doors of Karnataka Lokayukta.

The JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association sent a letter to the BBMP chief commissioner on December 6, 2023 seeking enforcement of law to remove illegal signboards and flexes of politicians and political parties.

KAUSHIK JN

"Let the boards have the name of the cross road... why the local MLA's name?
— Chetan M, resident, Jayanagar

Even after a month of receiving the letter, the BBMP authorities did nothing.

It is alleged that one of the top BBMP officers narrated the consequences he has to face if he removes signage boards or banners put up by politicians. One can see a signage board with Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy at Nandanavana Children's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Shifting sands of crime

In 2023, Bengaluru recorded more than 17,000 cases of cybercrime, a 174% increase from 2021

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The city police commissioner recently noted a shift in the city's crime scape, highlighting that, in recent years, the percentage of murders and chain snatching incidents has decreased significantly in overall recorded crime. Instead, the predominant challenges now stem from the rise of drug-related issues, traffic accidents and cybercrime.

The city in 2023 recorded more than 17,000 cybercrime registrations, which was a 174 percent increase from 2021 when Bengaluru registered 6,000 cases.

Similarly, as per police records, narcotics valued at Rs 103 crore were confiscated in 2023, marking a substantial rise compared to the seizures of Rs 92 crore and Rs 60 crore in 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The city saw the highest number of fatal accidents last year in 2023, when the death toll for road accidents crossed the 900 mark for the first time in a decade.

Experts said that cybercrime rates have increased incessantly due to technical advancement and accessibility.

"Earlier, pick pocketing or theft was very common because people used to carry money around in their wallet, but if we look at it now everyone has moved on to using UPI wallets. A person can only steal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Tee triumph

Canadian International School (CIS) is poised to unveil the prowess of young golfers at the eagerly anticipated 9th Annual Inter-school Golf Tournament. This prestigious event promises excitement and skilful gameplay.
When: February 7
Where: Prestige Augusta Golf Village, Horamavu

02 Devotional melodies

Embark on a musical journey at the Saint Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana National Music Festival, set to captivate audiences with divine notes. This week-long celebration boasts 90 concerts featuring over 300 musicians. **When- January 24 to January 30; Where- Sringeri Shankara Math, Chamarajpet**

03 Circus marvel

Prepare for an extraordinary spectacle at the "Olympian Circus." Dive into a world of enchantment and awe with thrilling performances and mesmerising acts that will leave you on the edge of your seat.
When- January 22 to February 11
Where- Exhibition Ground, Ramamurthy Nagar

Petals and poetry: Basavanna's legacy at Lalbagh

This year's Republic Day flower show at Lalbagh embraces the theme 'Basavanna,' showcasing floral creations inspired by the iconic philosopher and poet Basavanna. The flower show is open to the public until January 28.

Shikshan Awards to inspire change in government school education across Karnataka

Justice Santosh Hegde emphasises on integrity, actor Pooja Gandhi supports improvement of schools at event organised by Team Shikshan

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School Team Shikshan organised a special event at Ravindra Kalakshetra on Saturday to felicitate five outstanding student teams with the Shikshan Awards. These teams, selected from nine government schools, had received valuable computer training from Team Shikshan.

Former Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde graced the award function as the chief guest, imparting a valuable message to the students. He emphasised the importance of integrity, urging them to strive for success while upholding honesty and steering clear of corruption despite life's challenges. "I want students not to indulge in malpractices irrespective of hardships in life. All of you have to become somebody in society but I want you to be honest and never indulge in corruption," said Justice Hegde.

Addressing the gathering, renowned Sandalwood actress Pooja Gandhi spoke about the need for the enhancement of government schools and the imperative measures required to uplift the quality of education."I want to associate with Team Shikshan in future to contribute to the benefit of students at government schools," said Gandhi.

> **"All of you have to become somebody in society but I want you to be honest and never indulge in corruption**
> – Former Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde

Heading the proceedings, Deputy Inspector General of Police for Fire and Emergency Services, Ravi D Channannavar, offered valuable advice to students attending government schools. Encouragingly, he urged them not to be disheartened by their educational choices and highlighted the importance of hard work and dedicated studies. He spoke about the need for every student, irrespective of their educational background, to set ambitious goals in life.

Stating the lack of education as the reason for poverty, corruption and cheating, Vinod Kartavya, a member of Team Shikshan said that the majority of students go to government schools in the country. "Many government schools are on the verge of closing down due to some politics and politicians involved in them. We are working hard to upgrade government schools. There are some non-governmental organisations working in the country for the upgradation of government schools," he said.

The other initiative of Vinod Kartavya was making trees free from nails and bills. The team members also participated in awareness programmes on the rejuvenation of the Vrishabhavathi River.

Apollo launches India's first AI-precision oncology centre

Apollo Cancer Centre in Bengaluru has recently inaugurated India's first AI-Driven Precision Oncology Centre (POC). The POC is dedicated to providing precise and timely oncology care, leveraging AI for accurate diagnosis, real-time insights, cancer risk assessment, treatment protocols, and a seamless continuum of care. This patient-centric facility identifies suitable candidates for targeted therapy and immunotherapy, offering education through conversational AI to address diagnosis and treatment FAQs.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, the State Minister for Health & Family Welfare in Karnataka, commended this groundbreaking integration of innovation and healthcare, emphasising its significance as a beacon of hope for patients. Suneeta Reddy, Managing Director at Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd, underscored the commitment of this transformative initiative to personalised medicine and technological innovation, thereby redefining cancer care.

Dr Vijay Agarwal, Lead & Senior Consultant in Medical Oncology at ACC, Bengaluru, highlighted the POC's pivotal role in identifying new patients, featuring auto-alerts for eligible candidates and SOS alerts for those facing deteriorating outcomes. Dr Vishwanath S, Senior Consultant in Medical Oncology emphasised the benefits of the POC. **— BMB**

Everything is connected

City police seek data of food deliveries and cab pick ups to analyse traffic flow

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Food delivery agents have often come under fire with accusations of them violating traffic signals in a bid to deliver to the customer at the earliest. Now, the city police have reached out to food aggregator apps for data on their deliveries.

In a strategic move to enhance traffic management, police will collaborate with prominent food delivery companies, including Swiggy and Zomato. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth revealed that the police are actively seeking data on the services provided by these platforms. "The primary objective is to leverage this data to predict and effectively manage traffic flow in the city, particularly focusing on the movement of bikes utilised by food delivery executives. This collaborative effort aims to identify areas prone to higher traffic volumes, enabling authorities to proactively address potential congestion points," he said.

Currently, the police are already receiving data from approximately 90,000 autos registered with Namma Yatri and cabs affiliated with Ola. This information is instrumental in understanding the traffic dynamics in the city. "The collaborative approach also extends to tech parks, which share valuable data on the number of vehicles entering or exiting these facilities. By harnessing multiple data sources, the Bengaluru City police are taking significant steps toward developing a comprehensive understanding of the city's traffic patterns," Anucheth added.

"To further enhance situational awareness and develop actionable intelligence, the police actively crowd sourced traffic data from key stakeholders. These include Ola, Rapido, Namma Yatri, corporate travel managers, TomTom, travel data aggregators, Google Maps, field officers, and social media platforms. This comprehensive approach aims to create a robust system that efficiently manages traffic-related challenges," he said.

The police also plan to implement advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and Internet of Things (IoT)-based solutions to optimise traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance overall safety. Educational initiatives are also a key focus, with efforts directed towards raising awareness about road safety, responsible driving, and the consequences of traffic violations. School programs, workshops, and social media campaigns are part of the holistic approach to ensure a well-informed community.

A senior police official added, "The multi-faceted approach to traffic management, involving collaborations with various stakeholders and the use of advanced technologies, underscores a commitment to creating an efficient system. As the city continues to grow, such initiatives become crucial in ensuring a seamless and safe transportation experience. The focus on smart solutions and community education positions Bengaluru at the forefront of innovative traffic management in urban settings."

Eyes wide open

Bengaluru may soon have around 5 lakh CCTvs. Traffic commissioner B Dayananda said, "Under the safe city project, we have 7,500 cameras installed. In the next few months, we will see an additional 1,376 cameras coming up in the city. Additionally, the business establishments need to install cameras. There are many individual houses and residential associations that have their cameras. Currently, we have around 2.13 lakh cameras connected in the city and in the near future we may see these numbers going up to 5 lakh."

Reel gun-slinger held

A man responsible for creating reels with a handgun has been apprehended by the Bengaluru central crime branch police. Shashank (26) is the arrested.

The man is said to have been wielding a handgun, to produce and share reels on social media, inducing fear in the community. In response, the CCB police detained him.

During the investigation, it was revealed that he has seven prior cases against him. These include a 2015 murder case in Hulimavu police station, a 2019 murder case in Bannerghatta police station, additional cases in Rajajinagar, Tilaknagar, a kidnapping and murder case in Attibele police station, and seven assault cases in Puttenahalli.

CRIME FILES

Search on for unruly taxi driver

A taxi driver was accused of unruly behaviour towards a female passenger in Bellandur area. The incident involved mistreatment and assault of the passenger. One woman had initially booked a taxi to travel to Whitefield, but she had canceled the booking after the driver arrived. Subsequently, a confrontation ensued, leading to the driver dragging and assaulting the woman on the road.

The incident, which occurred around 8:30 pm was entirely captured on CCTV cameras near the area. Although the woman refrained from filing a complaint and left for her hometown, a friend reported the incident through platform X, prompting the police to search for the taxi driver.

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Bus stand to be leased for commercial ventures

KSRTC looks to lease out the under performing Basaveshwara bus terminus in Peenya, presenting opportunities for private development and revenue generation amidst financial challenges

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Basaveshwara bus terminus in Peenya. (File photo)

The Basaveshwara bus terminus in Peenya has proven to be a financial burden for the cash-strapped Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). Consequently, the decision has been made to generate revenue by transforming the dormant bus stand by leasing it out to private players. According to sources, KSRTC intends to lease the property to private entities for conversion into a Kalyan Mantap, mall, hospital, or any other commercial venture. An official stated, "The property spans 87,000 square feet and encompasses four floors, making it suitable for diverse development opportunities. We anticipate a monthly rent of Rs 27.90 lakh for interested parties." It's worth noting that the bus stand premises were temporarily utilised for a Covid hospital during the pandemic.

The Basaveshwara bus stand in Peenya, originally constructed to ease congestion at Majestic, failed to serve its intended purpose, resulting in a substantial financial strain on the cash-strapped Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation. Despite ongoing expenses, estimated between Rs 7 lakh and Rs 8 lakh monthly, to maintain the facility, the bus stand remains underutilised. KSRTC incurs costs for power, water, security personnel, and D group employees, with only a fraction of long-distance buses currently utilising the space as a resting area. Efforts to attract commuters to the bus stand have not yielded the desired results, leading to financial losses for KSRTC. Seeking alternative revenue sources, the corporation is exploring options to lease the building as office space and the adjacent vacant area for commercial purposes.

Bangalore Mirror
KSRTC spends Rs 7-8 lakh just to maintain Peenya's bus stand, which has barely any operations; non-transport revenue sources too not quite working out
DESOLATION STATION
Nelamangala-bound traffic was to be diverted from Peenya with stop built at Rs 40 crore in 2014

BM's report on Sept 14, 2023 about financial challenges of Basaveshwara Bus Stand in Peenya, prompting KSRTC to consider leasing for revenue generation

> **"The property spans 87,000 sq ft and encompasses 4 floors, making it suitable for diverse development opportunities**
> – Official, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation

Tumkur Road is crucial for KSRTC, connecting 20 districts in Karnataka, and while initial plans to redirect Nelamangala-bound traffic away from Peenya were made in 2014, services were discontinued due to connectivity issues. Despite a resumption of services in 2018, passenger traffic has not increased, and the bus stand continues to operate at a loss, serving approximately 600 buses daily. To address financial challenges, KSRTC is considering leasing parts of the bus stand, which includes 40 shops, and developing the adjoining vacant land for various purposes.

However, previous proposals have not yielded positive outcomes.

Upon careful examination of the Peenya bus stand situation, it becomes evident that the initial concept was flawed. The location's distance from the main road and limited BMTC bus frequency create inconvenience for passengers, leading many to opt for Jalahalli Cross instead. Learning from the Kerala model, KSRTC could consider implementing direct bus routes from the Basaveshwara bus stand to destinations like Mysore, Tirupati, Chennai, Hyderabad, and others via Majestic, enhancing accessibility for residents in and around Peenya.

Better late than never: Kanakapura Road finally gets fixes it deserves

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After a three-year wait, the 80-ft road at Raghuvanahalli, falling under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Development Authority, has finally seen a resolution to its problems. The thoroughfare, previously lacking a median, footpath, and adequate street lighting, has now been equipped with these essential safety features, marking a significant stride in ensuring the well-being of the community.

Residents living along this stretch can finally breathe a sigh of relief as the long-pending works have been completed. "The road, previously notorious for being an accident-prone area, witnessed reckless driving due to the absence of medians, streetlights, and proper footpaths. The completion of these vital infrastructural components not only addresses safety concerns but also introduces a sense of order to vehicular movement," said Kiran Kumar, a member of Changemakers of Kanakapura Road.

Street lights on Kanakapura Road get fixed

The KSIT Junction, connecting the 100-ft road and 80-ft road, facilitates crucial links to Uttarahalli and Kengeri Road. Thousands of daily commuters benefit from this improved infrastructure, especially considering the presence of an engineering college and hospitals in the vicinity.

He further added, "Since the road fell between two constituencies, Yeshwantpur and South constituency, there was a delay in starting the works. After much effort from citizens and with officials from both constituencies getting involved, the project was initiated. The location, known as the KSIT Junction near Vajrahalli Metro Station, serves as a crucial intersection between Kanakpura Road and the 80-ft road. The lack of streetlights had previously posed significant risks to citizens, and the absence of a median led to chaotic traffic patterns."

The approval of the project, just before the last election, paved the way for the much-needed transformation. The addition of medians now guides traffic flow, reducing haphazard driving, and the installation of well-lit street lights enhances safety during nighttime commutes. However, concerns linger about vendors encroaching on footpaths, hindering the intended pedestrian-friendly environment. Despite the positive changes, citizens emphasise the importance of addressing ongoing challenges, such as footpath encroachments, to ensure the sustained safety and convenience of all residents.

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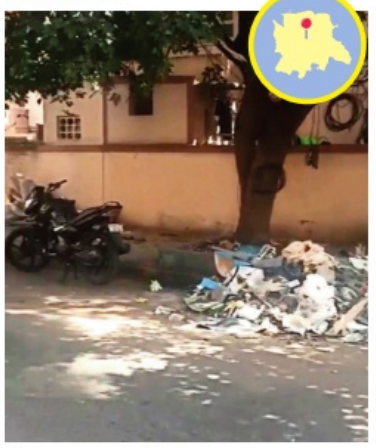
Debris dilemma

Halasuru



The space outside Grasmere Apartments has become a dumping ground for garbage. This unfortunate situation arose when a house opposite to it disposed of renovation waste in that area.

Lack of care

Kithiganur

Kithiganur Lake has remained uncleared for many years, and there is a lack of attention from government officials, with no visible efforts from ministers to address the issue.

Lethal grates

Sampigehalli

Gratings at the Srirampura Railway Underpass in the Jakkur–Sampigehalli area lift up when vehicles pass over them, posing a threat, especially for 2-wheelers.

All you need to know about personal loan

All entities will have to comply with new rules for lending by Feb 29

Personal loans are all set to get costlier this year. And getting it from a non-banking financial company (NBFC) could become more difficult thanks to a recent rule change by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Following a rampant surge in unsecured loans in the last few years, the RBI has increased the risk weight on consumer credit from 100% to 125%. The central bank also asked all regulated entities to comply with the new rules by February 29, 2024. Read on to know how much more you will have to pay for your next personal loan.

All lenders regulated by the RBI are required to hold capital in a certain proportion of the loan amount they lend. The riskier the loan, higher the capital a lender has to maintain. As a direct consequence of the RBI raising the risk weightage, lenders now have to maintain higher capital reserves for the riskier category. What changes for the lenders?

Adhil Shetty of Bankbazaar.com says, "Earlier, for every Rs 100 in personal loan receivables, the risk-weighted assets would be 100% of Rs 100 — which is equal to Rs 100. Due to the new rule, the risk-weighted assets are 125% of Rs 100 — that is Rs 125. Assuming a 9% capital adequacy ratio (CAR), banks now needs to set aside 9% of Rs 125, which comes to Rs 11.25 — compared with Rs 9 at 9% of Rs 100 earlier. Therefore, the increase in capital requirement is Rs 11.25 - Rs 9 = Rs 2.25 for every Rs 100 in personal loan receivables, or 20%."

Further, credit card receivables of scheduled commercial banks, which used to attract a risk weight of 125%, have been hiked to 150% while NBFCs' risk weights have been raised by 25% to 125%.

Will interest rates of personal loans go up in 2024? How much interest rate hike can you expect?

"The increase in risk weightage typically makes small-ticket personal loans, particularly those offered by NBFCs, more expensive for lenders. This could lead to higher interest rates or tighter eligibility criteria for borrowers," says Raoul Kapoor, Co-CEO, of Andromeda Sales and Distribution Pvt Ltd. This move will not affect home, auto loans or education loans.

> **Interest rates in the personal loan segment range from 12-13% to as high as 30-35%. Competitive pressures at the lower end of the band would be elevated** –AM Karthik, ICRA

The increase in the risk weights affects the personal loan segment in general, the impact on the small ticket segment shall be more pronounced, says AM Karthik, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA, Ltd. The rate hike is likely to be quicker and visible in smaller ticket-size loans of less than Rs 50,000, says Mittal.

Will the interest rate of personal loans go up soon? Karthik says: "Interest rates in the personal loan segment range from 12-13% to as high as 30-35%. Competitive pressures at the lower end of the band would be elevated considering the prime nature of the borrowers. However, the higher cost of capital, by way of risk-weight increase for both NBFCs and banks, and, an increase in the deposit rates of banks, and correspondingly the borrowing cost of NBFCs, will push up the rates in this segment.

Quick loans will not be quicker anymore

Getting a loan will also become difficult. "The increased risk weights on unsecured loans might make lenders more cautious, potentially leading to stricter eligibility criteria and a more rigorous assessment process for loan approvals," says Kapoor.

Those who usually opt for small-ticket loans of below Rs 1 lakh , may face more scrutiny from lenders.

By Anulekha Ray, ET Online

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Plans afoot to make dry waste centres fire proof

BBMP floats tender for work to install fire extinguishing system at waste collection centres that are housed in permanent structures

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File photo of a dry waste collection centre. With a number of inflammable items, these centres are highly vulnerable to fires and have been in the line of fire

After having witnessed several incidents of fires at Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs), the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is planning to install fire extinguisher systems inside centres with permanent structures. The BSWML under BBMP will install fire extinguishing systems as DWCCs that often store easily inflammable substances like paper and other dry waste.

BBMP has floated a tender for an estimated Rs 375 lakh for providing fire fighting equipment in the DWCCs to reduce the fire hazard. The whole work should be completed within three months.

However currently, it will be limited to newly constructed DWCCs with permanent structures. BBMP has plans in the pipeline to convert all the existing DWCCS with temporary sheds to permanent structures.

"These will be automatic fire extinguisher systems. The measure will ensure the safety of the material stored. In case of a fire incident, water will be released immediately. We are planning these systems in the newly constructed 20-25 DWCCs. The rest of them will get the system after they are converted to permanent structures," said a senior BSWML official.

As a stop-gap measure, the remaining DWCCs will get manually operated fire extinguishers.

The DWCCs Resource Organisation has commended the move. "It's always a good move to have fire extinguishers in DWCCs. We do see a few incidents of fire in DWCCs. An automatic fire extinguishing system would be highly effective during night," said Nalini Shekar of Hasiru Dala.

BangaloreMirror
Dry waste centre burnt down
Woman who used to run centre in JP Nagar, her 20-odd workers left with no means of livelihood

BM had reported on May 22, 2023 about JP Nagar's dry waste collection centre getting gutted in a fire

In May 2023, a DWCC in JP Nagar was gutted in a blaze. The DWCC used to store all the dry waste for ward number 177. Even though the firefighters doused the flames, the DWCC was reduced to ashes.

Currently, there are 164 DWCCs operational across the eight zones of BBMP.

In 2021, five DWCCs were victims of blaze and they were alleged to be acts of arson. The new system would also aid the DWCCs against acts of arson.

> **"We are planning these systems in the newly constructed 20-25 DWCCs. The rest of them will get the system after they are converted to permanent structures**
>
> –Senior BSWML official

In August 2023, there was a fire inside the Quality Control & Quality Assurance Department within the BBMP headquarters which prompted the need for fire-fighting equipment within the offices. BBMP had previously mentioned that it was planning to install a fire extinguishing system inside the Annexure 3 building.

Essential support and benefits for distribution personnel

Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror in collaboration with the Department of Labour and the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers Social Security Board, organised a comprehensive campaign in the localities of Gandhi Bazaar, Hanumanthnagar, VV Puram, Kalasipalya, NR colony and Chamarajpete. This initiative focused on providing insurance facility registration and e-labour card distribution for newspaper distributors and delivery boys in the vicinity. The campaign witnessed the active participation of labour officer Chandrashekhar in the presence of Gandhi Bazaar dealer Rajanna and Bank Colony dealer Ramakrishna and NR Colony dealer P Ramesh added value to the programme. The organised effort aimed at streamlining the process of insurance facility registration and e - labour card distribution specifically for newspaper distributors and delivery personnel in these neigh bourhoods. The collaboration between Vijay Karnataka Bangalore mirror, the Department of Labour, and the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers Social Security Board ensured the success of this programme, facilitating essential support and benefits for those involved in newspaper distribution services.

The campaign witnessed participation of labour officer Chandrashekhar in the presence of Gandhi Bazaar dealer Rajanna and Bank Colony dealer Ramakrishna and NR Colony dealer P Ramesh

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Nostalgic revelations

JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda is making a concerted effort to elucidate the necessity of forming an alliance with the BJP. Reflecting on the past, the former PM recounted that it was the Congress that led to the downfall of his prime ministership. He also blamed the Congress party for the collapse of the government helmed by his son, HD Kumaraswamy. Commending former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, Deve Gowda said he had extended his support for Gowda to continue as PM, though Gowda did not seek that assistance.

Venky & 'Benki'

During a press briefing, a journalist asked former Indian fast bowler Venkatesh whether spectators could expect to witness the 'benki' (fire) in his bowling during the upcoming One World, One Family T20 exhibition match. Attempting to translate the Kannada question for his cricketing colleagues, Venky jokingly mentioned that the journalists were curious if he could still deliver a ball of fire. Amidst laughter from the audience, Venky candidly expressed that, unfortunately, the fiery times had passed with age, and he no longer possessed such a blazing skill. He acknowledged that if anyone embodied the true spirit of a cricketer with fire, it would be Yuvraj Singh.

Genuine connection

Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar is gaining a reputation for his quirky remarks that resonate with the audience. At a recent event, he sugested that the real speed should be exhibited on the playing field, not on the road riding an Enfield, asserting that true royalty lies in this distinction. Eshwar also shared an unconventional political strategy, emphasising that defeating opponents doesn't necessarily require heavyweight supporters but rather individuals from the opponent's camp. He believes that by provoking or motivating those within the rival faction, one can effectively secure victory. Addressing feedback about his non-traditional political demeanor, Eshwar said seriousness alone doesn't validate a politician; genuine connection with the electorate is what truly matters.

Invoking PM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been making critical remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his X account of late. Consequently, as the Prime Minister was scheduled to visit Bengaluru last week, speculation arose whether he too would follow the lead of other Chief Ministers who refrained from extending a welcome to the Prime Minister. Due to a last-minute alteration, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar stepped in to receive the PM at the airport. Nevertheless, the Chief Minister was observed alongside the Prime Minister at the Boeing event venue, where they appeared to exchange pleasantries. While the PM was addressing the audience, a few individuals began chanting "Modi Modi." As the crowd looked around, the Prime Minister reassured the Chief Minister that he need not be concerned as such chants were commonplace.

Reading between lines

Former Minister V Somanna has been expressing dissatisfaction for some time, particularly since his defeat in last year's Assembly elections from twin constituencies. He was compelled to vacate his traditional Govindarajnagar seat and contest from a different location. Since then, Somanna has been complaining about the presence of individuals who betrayed him, like 'Brutus'. Last week, he traveled to Delhi to meet the party high command. When questioned by journalists about the discussions, Somanna stated that he was content with the outcome. Responding to a specific inquiry regarding whether he had sought a Rajya Sabha ticket, Somanna confirmed the request and mentioned that when he conveyed this demand, BJP national chief JP Nadda found it amusing. However, Somanna hesitated to provide further details.

Sankranthi spirit

One noteworthy event during Sankranthi was a competition to see who could consume the maximum number of kadubus within a given time. Surprisingly, a senior citizen surpassed the younger participants and downed the maximum number of kadubus. There were other entertaining games determining how skillfully men could apply make-up for their wives.

–Sridhar Vivan

Got hair botox?

Here's what you need to do to maintain It

While the treatment itself is a game-changer, the key to maintaining its results lies in proper aftercare. Rachana Lakhani, VP of Education & Strategic Business at Beauty Essentials Marketing India LL, takes us through the intricacies of post-treatment care and unveil the dos and don'ts that will ensure the longevity of your luscious locks.

Hair Botox is not just a cosmetic fix; it's a therapeutic treatment that penetrates deep into the hair shaft, repairing and rejuvenating from the inside out. Aftercare is paramount to preserve and enhance the benefits of this transformative procedure. By following a structured aftercare routine, clients can extend the life of their results and keep their hair looking radiant for an extended period.

Benefits of Hair Botox Aftercare

1 Prolongs Results: After undergoing a Hair Botox treatment, the hair cuticle is temporarily opened, allowing the nourishing ingredients to penetrate. Proper aftercare ensures the cuticle closes effectively, sealing in the treatment and prolonging its effects.

2 Maintains Hair Health: Hair Botox not only improves the appearance of the hair but also enhances its overall health. Aftercare practices contribute to maintaining the structural integrity of the hair, preventing damage and breakage.

3. Preserves Shine and Smoothness: The post-treatment period is crucial for retaining the newfound shine and smoothness. Following a tailored aftercare routine will help in preserving the luxurious feel of the hair just like one would follow a strict meal plan or skin care routine.

Dos and Don'ts of Hair Botox Aftercare

Dos:

1 **Use Sulfate-Free Shampoo:** Opt for sulfate-free shampoos to prevent stripping the hair of natural oils and the Botox treatment. These shampoos are gentle on the hair and maintain its moisture balance. Beauty Essentials suggests QOD Max Prime & QOD Argan shampoo+ Conditioner/Mask for optimal aftercare.

2 **Regular Moisturizing Masks:** Treat your hair to moisturizing masks at least once a week. This helps in replenishing lost moisture and keeping the hair hydrated, resulting in a softer texture.

3 **Avoid Heat Styling:** Give your hair a break from heat styling tools such as flat irons and curlers. If heat styling is necessary, use a heat protectant to shield the hair from damage.

4 **Protect Hair from Sun Exposure:** UV rays can be harsh on treated hair. Wear a hat or use UV-protective products to shield your hair from the sun's damaging effects.

5 Regular Trims: Schedule regular trims to get rid of split ends and maintain the shape of your hairstyle. This promotes healthier hair growth and ensures the longevity of the Hair Botox treatment.

Don'ts:

1 **Avoid Chlorine and Saltwater:** Chlorine in swimming pools and saltwater can be detrimental to treated hair. Avoid prolonged exposure and rinse your hair thoroughly after swimming.

2 **Say No to Alcohol-Based Products:** Alcohol can be drying to the hair. Steer clear of styling products that contain high levels of alcohol, as they can counteract the moisturizing effects of the Botox treatment.

3 **Limit Washing:** Overwashing can strip the hair of natural oils and the Botox treatment. Aim for washing your hair no more than two to three times a week.

4 **Avoid Tight Hairstyles:** Pulling the hair back tightly can cause stress and breakage. Opt for looser hairstyles to reduce tension on the hair shaft.

5 **Refrain from DIY Chemical Treatments:** Resist the temptation to experiment with at-home chemical treatments. Consult with your stylist before undergoing any additional chemical processes to prevent adverse reactions.

In conclusion, the journey to maintaining vibrant and healthy hair post Hair Botox treatment lies in conscientious aftercare. By adhering to these dos and don'ts, individuals can enjoy the complete long-lasting benefits that this groundbreaking treatment has to offer. Hair Botox isn't just a treatment; it's a commitment to the ongoing health and beauty of your hair.

by Karen Alfonso, Femina

India logs 1,513 cases of Covid sub-variant

A total of 1,513 cases of covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been recorded in the country so far with Maharashtra and Karnataka registering the highest number of cases of the variant, according to INSACOG on Sunday.

Data compiled by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) showed Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of JN.1 cases at 382 followed by Karnataka at 249. Andhra Pradesh recorded 189 JN.1 cases while Kerala registered 156 cases of the variant and Gujarat recorded 126 such cases.

West Bengal recorded 96 JN.1 cases, Goa 90 and Tamil Nadu 89.

Rajasthan has recorded 38 JN.1 cases, Telangana recorded 32, Chhattisgarh 25, Delhi 21, Uttar Pradesh nine, Haryana five, Odisha three, and Uttarakhand, Manipur and Nagaland one each, according to the data accessed by PTI.

Karnataka is second to only Maharashtra in number of cases

The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country.

The states have been urged to ensure effective compliance of the detailed operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy for covid-19 shared with them by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The states have also been asked to regularly monitor and report district-wise cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) from all health facilities for an early detection of a rising trend of Covid cases.

The World Health Organisation has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly-increasing spread, but said it poses a "low" global public health risk.

The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was previously classified as a variant of interest (VOI) as part of the BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said. **PTI**

Pixxel to launch six home-built hyper-spectral satellites from June

Bengaluru-based space start-up Pixxel plans to launch a series of small, home-built satellites -- Fireflies -- from June that could have a finer look at the Earth with its five-metre resolution hyper-spectral imagery.

Pixxel recently launched its satellite manufacturing unit -- Mega Pixxel -- in Bengaluru where it can assemble, integrate and test 40 satellites weighing 100 kg every year as the nascent company aims to take a leap in the space sector.

"If you are looking at 100-kilogramme micro-satellites which are able to do a whole lot of stuff in terms of actual commercial viability, we can do 20 of them at a single point in time. The turnaround time from getting them assembled to ship-to-launch is about six months. That makes it 40 every year," Awais Ahmed, founder and CEO Pixxel, told PTI. Ahmed said Pixxel aims to launch six 100-kilogramme satellites, named Fireflies, from June, and add another 12 next year to monitor in over 250 spectral bands at five-metre spatial resolution -- the highest in commercial hyper-spectral satellites.

He said Pixxel also plans to launch six heavier satellites -- Honeybees -- next year to complete its constellation of 24 satellites with an ability to revisit any location on Earth within a 24-hour cycle.

At five metres, the Fireflies have better resolution than the demonstration satellites Shakuntala and Anand that Pixxel launched aboard SpaceX and PSLV rockets, respectively, in 2022, Ahmed said. **PTI**

Changing scape of crime in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rs 500 or Rs 1000 from pick-pocketing, whereas with cybercrimes or online scams they can ask the victim to clear their accounts and can easily steal around Rs. 50,000 or more.

Another factor is that the person committing cybercrimes is not physically present at the spot and can easily commit crime or theft or extortion from the comfort of their own place," says Advocate Supriya Mehta.

She added that the current applicable laws on data privacy or information technology do not consider a lot of factors.

"The Information technology Act was enforced in 2000 and in 2024 there has been a huge boom in technology; the legislation did not consider most of these. There is a definite need to address the issues and foresee the misuse of technology in the future by legislation considering the cases of extortion have increased, which has now become a major part of cybercrimes," she noted.

Experts suggested that drug procurement and consumption have become very common in the past few years. "There has been an increase in the demand of psychedelic drugs as well as ganja and the suppliers are trying to match the demand," said a source.

A senior police official told BM that the surge in cybercrimes has become increasingly pronounced, with a notable rise attributed to both a higher rate of registration and an uptick in cyber incidents.

Concurrently, law enforcement agencies, particularly narcotics police, have intensified their focus, leading to a discernible increase in the number of cases pursued.

In contrast, when examining absolute figures related to traditional crimes such as murder, chain snatching, and other conventional offences, there is only a marginal uptick.

However, the landscape shifts dramatically when delving into instances related to narcotics and cybercrimes, where a steep incline is evident.

At face value: Bored of their boards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Park and photos of elected representatives at bus shelters and RO plants at RR Nagar and Byatarayanapura assembly constituencies. It is true that no political party is immune to misusing public places. Politicians of all political parties vie among themselves to misuse public places at the drop of a hat.

"We promptly wrote a letter to the BBMP chief commissioner (on December 6, 2023) and approached BBMP officials at zonal level seeking them to remove signage boards with politicians' photos and banners. We waited a month expecting BBMP authorities to remove the signboards and banners but nothing has been done till date. We finally approached Karnataka Lokayukta seeking direction to the BBMP authorities," said Rajagopalan R, president, JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association.

Gunda A Bhat, secretary, JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, said association members approached the BBMP authorities a month ago but no action has been taken to remove the signage boards and banners.

"I am not happy with the BBMP authorities who have failed to remove the signage boards and banners due to the reasons known to them. There is a court order prohibiting signage boards and banners with politicians' or elected representatives' photos," said Bhat.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to stop misusing public places by politicians, Chetan M, a resident of Jayanagar 9th Block, questioned the need of installing name boards (with local MLA's name) at all cross roads.

"Let the name boards have the name of the cross road and the area (ward or assembly constituency) but why is the MLA's name on the name boards installed at all cross roads," wondered Chetan.

On January 17, JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association lodged a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta against BBMP South Zone projects department executive engineer Fazal Ahmed and assistant engineer Vijay Kumar for dereliction of duty.

Meanwhile, Fazal Ahmed, executive engineer, said that he would take action as per the norms against those misusing public places. "I am aware of the complaint from JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association. I will initiate action against those misusing public places," said Ahmed.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Skandan M Hampapur s/o. Muralidhar.B.R, residing at no.77, Sai Gardenia enclave, Singanayakanahalli, b'lore 64 have changed my name to Skandan.M vide affidavit dtd.19/01/2024 bfr notary R.Ravikumar

I, Zareen Taj W/o Mohammed Mukathar Ahamad R/o No.183, 4th main, 4th cross, Ramachandrapuram, Srirampuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Zareen Taj Mohammed affidavit Dt.20/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Mohammed Anwar, S/o. Abdul Sattar, R/a. No. 41, 4th Main, Byrasandra, Jayanagar 1st Block East, B'lore- 560011. I have changed my name from Anwar to MOHAMMED ANWAR. Vide Affidavit Date: 16.01.2024. Sworn before Notary: Mohammed Hussain K.

I, Goutham Babu S/o Gopal A R/o No.11, Swathi nilaya, 20th main, 19th cross, SMS Lyt, JP Nagar, 5th phase, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Goutham Babu Gopal affidavit Dt.20/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Naresh, S/o. Govind Ram, R/a. No. 4/1, 3rd main, HGH Layout, Ganganagar Bengaluru- 560032. I have changed my name to NARESH KUMAR BHATI. Vide affidavit Date: 19.01.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, Mukthiyar S/o Abdul Atif R/o No.183, 4th main, 4th cross, Ramachandrapuram, Srirampuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Mohammed Mukathar Ahamad affidavit Dt.20/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

GET NOTICED

Wanted Women Officers for Reliance Group for Wilson Garden Branch.
Selection Criteria
Age: 30 to 45 yrs. Education: Any Diploma / Degree
Salary: 20 to 25K per month (Females only (Married))
Fixed Salary+Variable Salary+Incentives+ESI & PF
Walking in Interview on : 22, 23, 24 Jan. 2024
Timings: 9.30 to 5.30
Address: 24, 4th Floor, Comfort Towers, 10th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027.
GHAYATHRI VINAY
8220850926 / 9535222878

WEB OF DECEIT

Cybersecurity researcher explains all about credential stuffing and how to protect yourself

Cyber-skulduggery is becoming the bane of modern life. Australia's prime minister has called it a "scourge", and he is correct. In 2022–23, nearly 94,000 cyber crimes were reported in Australia, up 23% on the previous year.

In the latest high-profile attack, around 15,000 customers of alcohol retailer Dan Murphy, Mexican restaurant chain Guzman y Gomez, Event Cinemas, and home shopping network TVSN had their login credentials and credit card details used fraudulently to buy goods and services in what is known as a "credential stuffing" attack.

So what is credential stuffing – and how can you reduce the risk of it happening to you?

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Re-using the same login details

Credential stuffing is a type of cyber attack where hackers use stolen usernames and passwords to gain unauthorised access to other online accounts.

In other words, they steal a set of login details for one site, and try it on another site to see if it works there too.

This is possible because many people use the same username and password combination across multiple websites.

It is common for people to use the same password for multiple accounts (even though this is very risky).

Some even use the same password for all their accounts. This means if one account is compromised, hackers can potentially access many (or all) their other accounts with the same credentials.

'Brute force' attacks

Hackers purchase job lots of login credentials (obtained from earlier data breaches) on the "dark web".

They then use automated tools called "bots" to perform credential stuffing attacks. These tools can also be purchased on the dark web.

Bots are programmes that perform tasks on the internet much faster and more efficiently than humans can.

In what is colourfully termed a "brute force" attack, hackers use bots to test millions of username and password combinations on different websites until they find a match. It's easier and quicker than many people realise.

It is happening more often because the barrier to entry for would-be cybercriminals has never been lower. The dark web is readily accessible and the resources needed to launch attacks are available to anyone with cryptocurrency to spend and the will to cross over to the dark side.

How can you protect yourself from credential stuffing?

The best way is to never reuse passwords across multiple sites or apps. Always use a unique and strong password for each online account.

Monitor your online accounts regularly to look for any suspicious activity. You can also check if your email or password has been exposed in a data breach by using the website Have I Been Pwned

Choose a password or pass phrase that is at least 12 characters long, is complex, and hard to guess. It should include a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Don't use pet names, birthdays or anything else that can be found on social media.

You can use a password manager to generate unique passwords for all your accounts and store them securely. These use strong encryption and are generally regarded as pretty safe.

Another way to protect yourself from credential stuffing is to enable two-factor authentication (2FA) for your online accounts.

Two-factor authentication is a security feature that requires you to enter a code or use a device in addition to your password when you log in.

This adds an extra layer of protection in case your password is stolen. You can use an app, a text message, or a hardware device (such as a little "key" you plug into a computer) to receive your two-factor authentication code.

Monitor your online accounts regularly to look for any suspicious activity. You can also check if your email or password has been exposed in a data breach by using the website Have I Been Pwned.

You may be surprised by what you see. If you do discover your login details there, use this as a timely warning to change your passwords as soon as possible.

Eternal vigilance

In today's world of rising cyber crime, your best defence against credential stuffing and other forms of hacking is vigilance. Be proactive, not complacent about online security.

Use unique passwords and a password manager, enable two-factor authentication, monitor your accounts, and check breach notification sites (like Have I Been Pwned).

Remember, the recent attacks on Dan Murphy, Guzman y Gomez and others show how readily our online lives can be disrupted. Don't let your credentials become another statistic. As you are reading this, the criminals are thinking up new ways to exploit our vulnerabilities.

By adopting good digital hygiene and effective security measures, we can take back control of our online identities.

(By David Tuffley, Griffith University, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

UNSUBSCRIBE FASTER

Google has introduced new ways to make it easier to unsubscribe from unwanted emails in Gmail on the web and mobile. It has now added the unsubscribe button to the hover actions in the thread list on the web. "When the unsubscribe button is clicked, Gmail sends http request or an email to the sender to remove your email address from their mailing list," Google said.

On mobile, the company moved the unsubscribe button from the three-dot menu to appear prominently in your email on your devices.

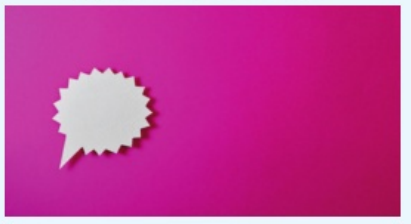
DIDN'T ORDER THAT!

A man who purchased a laptop worth Rs 1.13 lakh from Flipkart during its Republic Day sale has claimed that he received "some old discarded laptop" instead. Souro Mukherjee has shared the video on X in which the delivery agent can be seen unboxing the laptop.

"I ordered a brand new Asus Laptop from Flipkart in this Republic Day sale and I received some old discarded laptop. Never trust products ordered from online platforms. @flipkartsupport @Flipkart #flipkartscam," Mukherjee wrote.

Responding to his post, Flipkart said, "We'd never want you to get anything but what you ordered and are extremely sorry about this instance. You can count on us to sort this out..." **IANS**

GOOFY CHATBOT



Global delivery firm DPD has disabled part of its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot for online support that swore at a customer, and criticised the delivery company.

The firm uses AI chatbot to answer customer queries. When musician Ashley Beauchamp tried to track down a missing parcel, he was shocked to see some of the replies. "Parcel delivery firm DPD have replaced their customer service chat with an AI robot thing. It's utterly useless at answering any queries, and when asked, it happily produced a poem about how terrible they are as a company. It also swore at me," Beauchamp posted on X.

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
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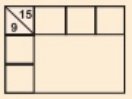
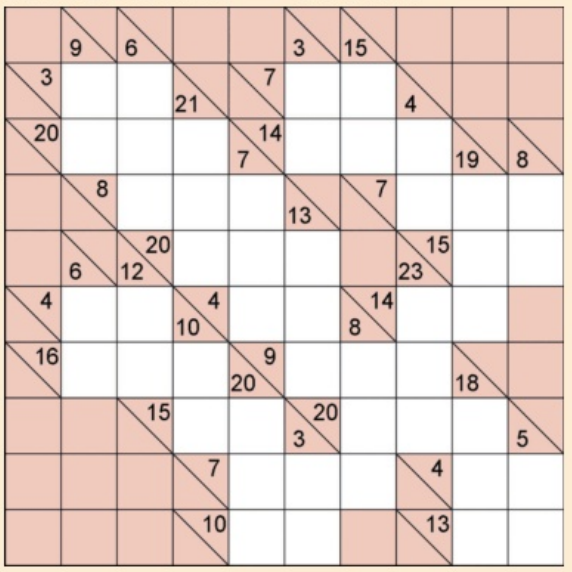
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

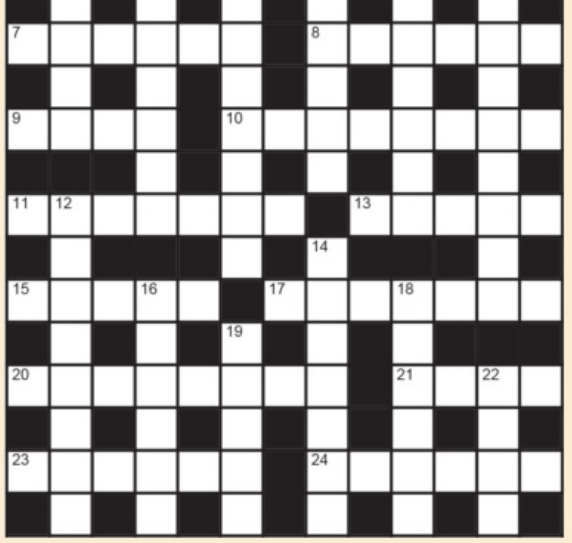


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Former monetary unit of Portugal (6)
8 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
9 A river of Scotland (4)
10 Make more concise (8)
11 Bruised, injured or hurt (7)
13 Muslem religion (5)
15 Make a bid? (5)
17 Incite or bring about (7)
20 A rapid preliminary inspection? (4-4)
21 Neat (4)
23 Bank worker (6)
24 Active ill-will (6)

DOWN

1 Invitation letters (4)
2 Author of "Pilgrim's Progress"? (6)
3 Tutored or taught, gave private tuitions to (7)
4 Utopias or heavens (5)
5 Groups of eight (6)
6 Retaliates against or punishes? (4,4)
12 Insulted, outraged or slighted (8)
14 An ancient Greek or Roman warship (7)
16 In a uniform manner (6)
18 Essential parts of body-heart, lungs, etc. (6)
19 Tusk substance (5)
22 Pier (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

ZSDIB FSBG ZBXB WRGDEO RUPEO FSBUWBIYBW DF AREEPF TB NPEB, DF ZRW NPEB.

Linemaro

You could be an astronaut if you wanted. NASA told me so

Mindchow

A leader is best when people barely know he exists, and when his work is done, they say 'we did it ourselves'

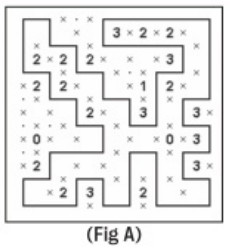
Joke of the day

The chair of the Dyslexic Society was recently given an OBE. He said, "What's the point, I can't play the bloody thing"

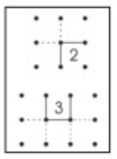
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

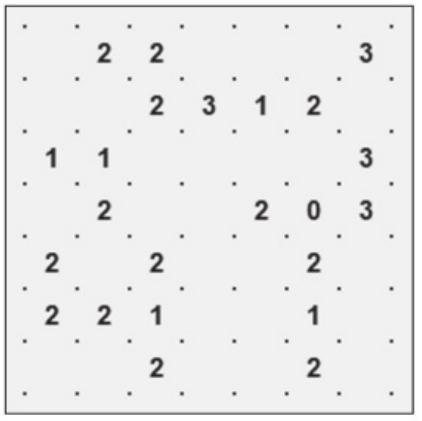


(Fig B) Not Allowed

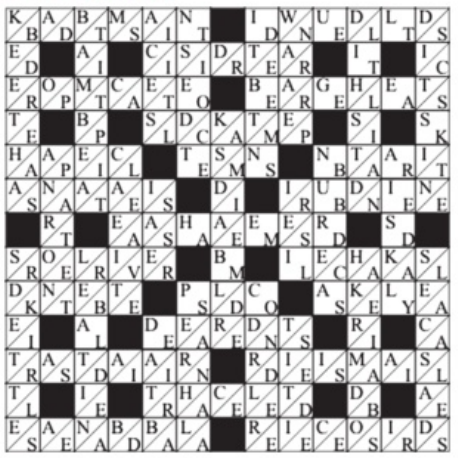
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		Y		

ACROSS

1 Musts; 6 E teen;
7 Aline; 8 Finer;
9 No dye

DOWN

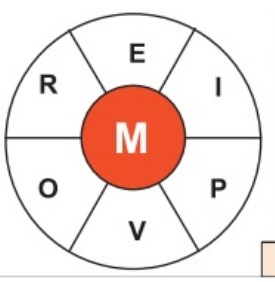
1 Adits; 2 Tenon;
3 Y I fun; 4 Em Eel;
5 Rents

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

0, 27, 54, ?, 108, 135

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7		8				1		4
	4	5	7		8	9	6	
				1				
8			3	7	9			6
3			5	6	1			2
				9				
	3	2	6		4	7	1	
4		9				6		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

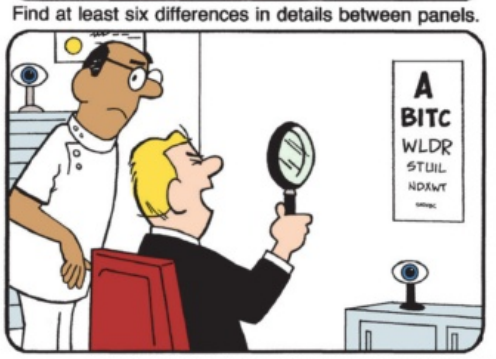
Easy = 20
5 8 8 9

Medium = 16
2 2 3 4

Hard = 24
3 7 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



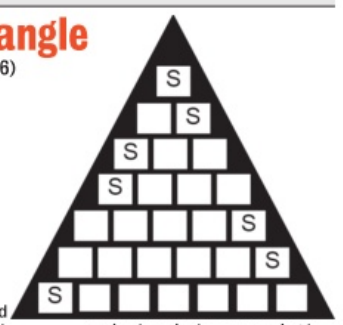
Differences: 1. Magnifying glass is reversed. **2.** Eye model is moved. **3.** Mouth is different. **4.** Armrest is missing. **5.** Cabinet handle is moved. **6.** Sleeve is shorter.

Riddler

A man who is driven, driven to drink. Sunburned, cold, pale not pink. Sleeping in a dirty box. Through the darkened streets he walks. Though rarely found in a holy place, He's born again, but not in grace. Who or what is he?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number (16)
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Dejected
4 Beach stuff
5 Mends socks
6 Bahrain bucks
7 Canned fish



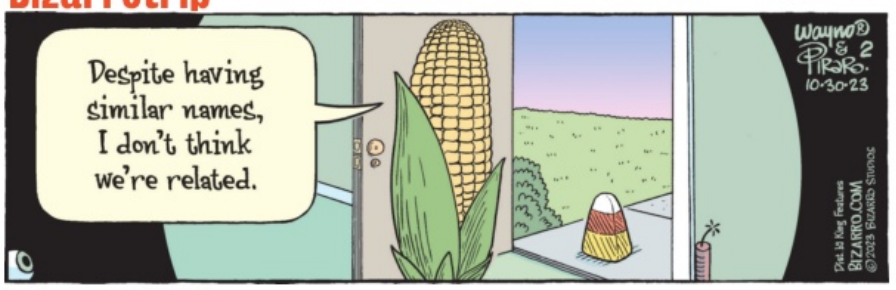
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

RED TEAM ALWAYS WINS THE MOST THREE-LEGGED RACES. WE'RE THE OLDEST, WISEST AND THE STRONGEST GROUP IN THIS SCHOOL!
BUT DON'T GET COMPLACENT! NO MERCY!!
IS IT TOO LATE TO QUIT?

Crankshaft

IF YOU'RE REALLY THINKING OF US BUYING MONTONI'S AND RUNNING IT... YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A SOLID BUSINESS PLAN!
HEY, I'M TOTALLY OPEN TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM!
FOR STARTERS, HOW SMART IS IT TO HAVE A CLOWN WHO DRESSES UP IN PIZZA BOXES AS A BUSINESS PARTNER?
OKAY, YOUR CRITICISM IS GETTING LESS CONSTRUCTIVE...
I COULD LEAVE, AND WE COULD DO A ZOOM LATER...
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for you on the professional front. You may be able to take up some new responsibility, but stay aware of your opponents. You will gain favour with the bosses, so do control arrogance as that can cause disharmony. Your family life may be stable now and there may be some good news on your kids' education front.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day for you as you will be able to work well and also spend good quality time with family. You will be able to take some things forward in your personal life. You are advised to avoid investment in fixed assets or take your time to think over it before making any commitments. Take care of your health today.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is an auspicious day for you so you may have the right amount of confidence to start something new. You will witness much more understanding from your counterparts and also your rivals today. You may indulge in creative activities or an activity that takes you away from the hustle bustle to give you some time for introspection.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may wake up in a bad mood and things may look bleak in the first half of the day. Rest assured, by evening all will start to look up again if you can gain mastery over any negative feelings that may threaten to creep up. You are advised to give any investment deep thought and not make any hasty decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a positive day for you as you are able to think fast and act faster. Your family bonds will also look up today and any issues facing your loved ones may find solutions. Your colleagues may help you out if you are in a tricky situation and so you will do well at work. If you are an artist or a farmer, you may see success in your fields.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are advised to think twice before making any decision that is important for your future. You may want to go by your intuition and in any case that is the best advice for today that you follow your gut feeling. However, it is better if you can look at all angles of an issue before deciding. You may find yourself in a stressful situation at work but you will come out of it.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may get to spend a lot more time at home and with family. You will be interested in making some renovations at home. You are advised to keep an eye on spending as it may overshoot the budget. You may plan for an outing with family or friends and are likely to have some meaningful conversations with your spouse or somebody close to you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel satisfied at work and even find a rapport with colleagues and bosses. You will be able to make an impactful presentation that will gain you more respect at work. At home too, you will share good moments with your loved ones. You are advised to avoid getting into any ego tussles today. Patience is key.

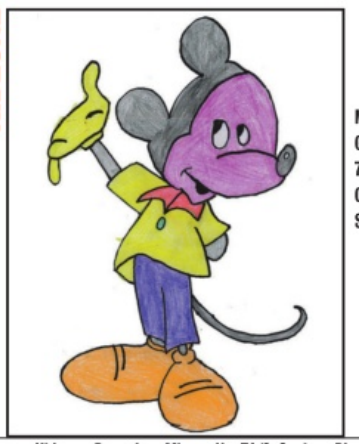
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day at work and home. However, you may tend towards overconfidence. You are advised to keep a control over your words and spending today. You are also advised to avoid any long trips as there is a tendency to overshoot your budgets today. You may have a good day at home with your children or other loved ones. Elders' blessings will make it an overall positive day for you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you will go out with friends or family and will be able to reconnect with some lost relations. This will also help you professionally as you are likely to have a strong network and get the advice of people senior to you. Today is a good day on the family front too and you are likely to make new connections.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you will find yourself in a self-reflective mood. This may make you pensive for some time but you are able to channelize it into bettering your work. This will gain you the respect of your peers. You are advised to not eat much as today you may feel some discomfort in terms of health.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The moon is not favourable today so you are likely to be a victim of negative thoughts. It is important that you don't lose focus of your goals and stick to the career path you have created for yourself. The negative thoughts shall pass by evening and you are advised to not take any decision in haste.

KIDZONE



Manamohana Gowda, 7 Years, Cordial High School

Harshini Abburi, 10 Years, Greenwood High International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2-2(4-0(0))×43-7
2-2(4-0)×43-7
2-8×64-7
2-512-7= -517

RIDDLER
Vampire

FAST FIVE

S	T	U	M	S
T	E	N	E	T
A	N	I	L	E
I	N	F	E	R
D	O	Y	E	N

QUOTE UNCODE
While they were saying among themselves it cannot be done, it was done.

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	D	A	L	R	E	C	O	R	D			
T	E	T	A	C	E	T	B	E						
R	A	D	I	A	N	D	I	S	M	A	L			
I	A	D	E	D	S	I	A							
K	N	E	E	P	L	O	S	K	Y	E				
S	O	L	V	E	B	L	E	A	K	S				
R	A	S	H	A	M	E	D	S						
S	A	T	E	S	I	R	U	N	I	N				
H	A	I	L	E	M	S	N	A	R	I				
T	B	S	C	A	M	P	I	K						
R	O	T	A	T	E	E	A	G	L	E	S			
E	I	C	I	D	E	R	I	I						
B	A	T	M	A	N	D	W	E	L	L	S			

QUICK

D	Y		E	S	K									
T	E	L	L	E	R	M	A	L	I	C	E			
D	N	O	E	A	O									
O	N	C	E	O	V	E	R	T	I	D	Y			
E	V	I	I	I										
O	F	F	E	R	P	R	O	V	O	K	E			
F	D													
W	O	U	N	D	E	D	I	S	L	A	M			
A		H	S	T	B									
S	P	E	Y	C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E			
V	N	A	E	T	Y									
E	S	C	U	D	O	E	C	C	A	N				
R	B	C	E	O	P									

MENSA PUZZLE
81: add 27 each time

BULL'S EYE
emir, IMPROVE, mire, mope, more, move, mover, movie, perm, poem, prim, prime, prom, romp

SUDOKU

4	1	9	2	5	7	6	3	8
5	3	2	6	8	4	7	1	9
6	8	7	1	9	3	2	4	5
3	7	4	5	6	1	8	9	2
8	5	6	8	4	2	3	7	1
9	2	1	3	7	9	4	5	6
2	9	3	4	1	6	5	8	7
1	4	5	7	2	8	9	6	3
7	6	8	9	3	5	1	2	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sad, Sand, Darns, Dinars, Sardine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 8 + 8 − 5 = 20
Medium
3 × 2 − 2 × 4 = 16
Hard
3 × 7 + 9 − 6 = 24

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 016 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SHRI RAM JAY RAM JAY JAY RAM

ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮ, ಜಯ ರಾಮ, ಜಯ ಜಯ ರಾಮ
ಜಯ ಗುಣ ಶ್ಯಾಮ, ಜಯ ಸೀತಾರಾಮ!!

ಮರ್ಯಾದಾ ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ, ಕೌಸಲ್ಯ ತನಯ,
ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆ ಅಧಿಪತಿ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮನ ಅನುಗ್ರಹ ಆಶೀರ್ವಾದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ
ಶಿರಸಾಷ್ಟಾಂಗ ನಮಸ್ಕರಿಸಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ...

********* ಶುಭ ಕೋರುವವರು *********

ಶ್ರೀರಾಮ ಭಕ್ತವೃಂದ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.